

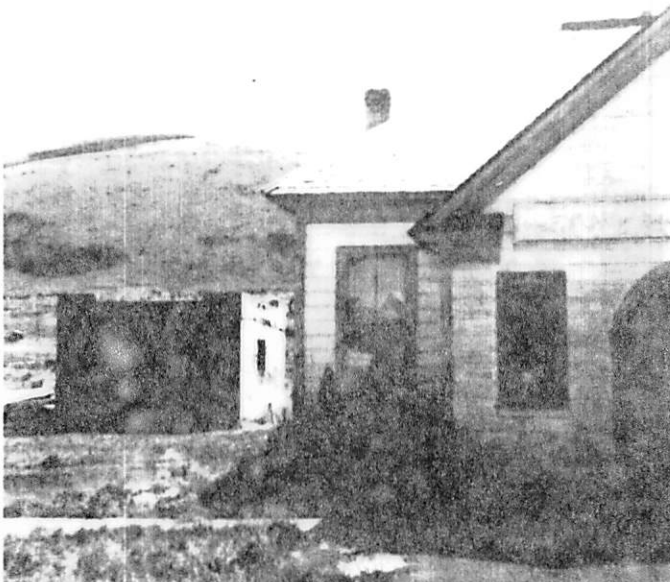
SCOFIELD

Carbon County

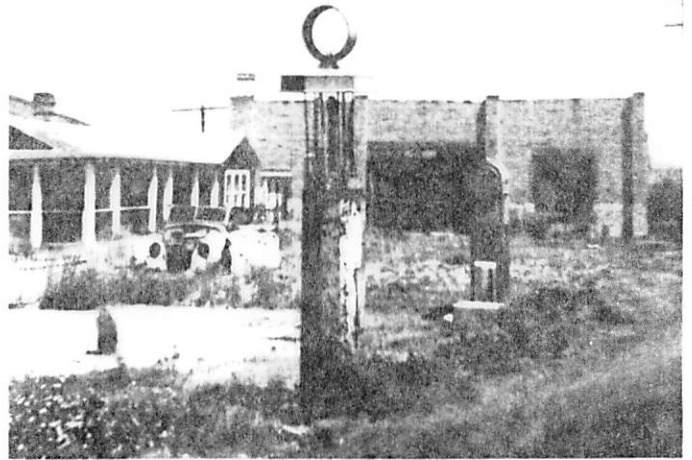
Mining
Class 6

The numerous, rapidly-developing coal mines in Pleasant Valley required more than one city to provide necessary living services. Scofield, named after Charles W. Scofield, local mine official, was established in 1879 on the valley floor as an outgrowth of Winter Quarters. Numerous homes surrounded the city center of stores, churches, business offices, a city hall, post office and jail. By 1890, 700 residents were counted, the men working for the Kinney, Union Pacific, Blue Seal, Utah and Winter Quarters mines, as well as several small one or two man operations in what has been shown to be one of Utah's richest coalfields. Although several sawmills were built in the canyons above town, the demand for new buildings was so heavy that it became cheaper and easier to purchase lumber from Oregon than to log and mill timber from the local hills.

In 1915 the town citizens attempted to have the county seat moved from Price, as Scofield was much larger and more stable. There was never any real contest, however, as Price is astraddle the mainline Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, U.S. Highway 50, and is in the center of the county while Scofield is literally isolated at one end. In 1920 the city approached 2000 residents, maintained twelve stores, thirteen saloons, four large hotels, and served as the population and business center for the valley of 6-7000 people.



The old city hall and now unused jail sit across the street from the post office.



Once busy community life is revealed in this collection of abandoned gasoline pumps, cars and buildings.

A miners' strike of major proportions hit in 1922, and, aside from World War II, the town has been in a gradual steady decline ever since.

Located 17 miles southwest of Colton, on paved State Highway 96, the depopulated town is full of old, delightful, sway-backed buildings. An occasional steel company mine still operates but the independent mines are closed except for some activity in winter. Although seventy people still call the sleepy town home, most of them work or attend school in Price and Helper. Several remaining false-front and brick store buildings, interspersed with foundations and vacant lots, give an indication of the once-solid economy and business activity. Even though not a true ghost town, the shell of old Scofield is an attractive, picturesque, mine town.

The town cemetery, with the tilted, wooden headboards of victims of the Winter Quarters mine disaster amid numerous wild flowers, is listed on the National Historic Register.

References: 21, 22, 60, 63, 72.